

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W
-----079503 290248Z /64

O 290238Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2326
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF JUNE 28

REF: A) PRETORIA 3647, B) PRETORIA 3646

1. THE CONTACT GROUP MET PM JUNE 28 TO DISCUSS SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN FIVE DEMARCHE OF JUNE 22 (REF A) AND TO CONSIDER WHAT STEPS SHOULD NOW BE TAKEN. THE GROUP DISCUSSED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR AN ESCALATED APPROACH TO VORSTER E.G., MESSAGE FROM HEADS OF STATE, PERSONAL APPROACH IN PRETORIA BY ONE OR MORE FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT VORSTER IS UNLIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY
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FURTHER ARGUMENTATION AT THIS TIME. THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE REMAINING WAY TO MOVE SOUTH AFRICA ON THE LOCATION OF THE RESIDUAL FORCE MIGHT BE TO FIRST OBTAIN SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIVE'S SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL ON CONDITION THAT THE RESIDUAL FORCE BE LOCATED ONLY T GROOTFONTEIN. IN THE GROUP'S VIEW, MOVEMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA WILL ONLY

COME IF THEY ARE ASSURED THAT THE GESTURE ON LOCATION WOULD BE THE FINAL ONE THAT THEY WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE, AND THE FINAL BARRIER TO AGREED SETTLEMENT.

2. THE CONTACT GROUP, THEREFORE, AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT AN APPROACH BE MADE BY THE AMBASSADORS IN DAR ES SALAAM TO PRESIDENT NYERERE, THAT HE BE INFORMED OF THE NATURE OF OUR APPROACH TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THEIR RESPONSE, AND THAT HE BE TOLD THE FIVE WOULD PLAN A FURTHER APPROACH TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT THAT WE ESTIMATE THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE UNLIKELY TO CONCEDE UNLESS THEY ARE ASSURED THAT THE FINAL CONCESSION WOULD MEAN FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL. WE WOULD THEN MAKE OUR DECISION ABOUT AN APPROACH TO SWAPO OR A RETURN TO PRETORIA, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS WITH NYERERE. THE CONTACT GROUP WILL MEET AM JUNE 29 TO CONSIDER CAPITALS REACTIONS TO THE ABOVE. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY EMBASSY COMMENTS.

3. WE ALSO SUGGESTED TO THE CANADIANS THAT THE FIVE IN ANY EVENT SHOULD PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON THEIR APER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SAG INSISTENCE THAT OUR GROOTFONTEIN SUGGESTION SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERS THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE REBUTTED
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FOR THE RECORD. THE CANADIANS READILY AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT TWO OR THREE OTHER POINTS, INCLUDING WALVIS BAY, OUGHT TO BE TIDIED UP FOR THE RECORD AT THE SAME TIME. WE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE NOTION OF SUCH A RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS JUNE 29. IT WAS OUR IDEA THAT A RETURN THE FOURIE WITH OUR COMMENTS ON THE SAG PAPER WOULD MAINTAIN THE RECORD OUR POSITION, OFFER THE SOUTH AFRICANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY AND PERHAPS EVEN RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION, AND KEEP THE DIALOGUE GOING. SUCH A RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD NOT NEED TO BE TIED TO OUR TALK WITH NYERERE, NOR SHOULD IT IMPINGE ON ANY FURTHER APPROACHES WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE TO MAKE TO VORSTER ON TROOP LOCATION.

4. ON A RELATED MATTER, THE GERMANS REPORTED THAT CHANCELOER SCHMIDT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON JUNE 29 AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE BE RAISED WITH KAUNDA. (SCHMIDT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR MUELLER, A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WESTERN FIVE NEGOTIATING TEAM ON NAMIBIA.) THE CONTACT GROUP AGREED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL

OPPORTUNITY TO ILICIT KUANDA'S ADVICE AND THAT
THE GERMANS SHOULD DO SO. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780268-0596
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978066/aaaaaeni.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e573289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 3647, 78 PRETORIA 3646
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2351574
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF JUNE 28
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e573289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014